

To members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2673 without my signature.

Coordinating efforts to protect federal wildlife areas, refuges, and national parks with all levels of government is important to assure these resources are protected and available for all to enjoy. The United States Department of Interior has an established procedure for disclaiming its interests in transportation and utility corridors maintained and controlled by county governments. This process includes general public and government participation, a 90 day comment period, and requirements on environmental review if the proposed use of the corridor is altered or intensified.

This bill requires local governments, prior to applying for transfer of a qualified recordable disclaimer of interest, to submit to the Secretary of Resources a statement of how the property will be used and certify compliance with applicable state environmental laws. This bill then requires the Secretary to refer these requests to appropriate state agencies for review. This additional layer of bureaucratic review will likely not lead to additional protections, may prove as a disincentive for these transfers to occur, and will add additional unnecessary costs without identifying a pressing need.

For these reasons I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger